

SOUTHAMPTON UFO GROUP

12 Years of Investigation

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CHECK US OUT AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE :

<http://www.sufog.freemove.co.uk>

This edition of the newsletter is full of more (I hope) interesting items and articles to keep you interested. There has been a lot of talk about UFO Magazine and its demise and I hope the item that I have included puts people in the picture and also the possible replacement magazine available on the Internet from the 27th April.

There have been one or two rumbles in the jungle about the newsletter being late again. I am sorry about this, but having a family and other commitments, I do have problems keep to the 15th of the month when the newsletter is due for publication. I try my best to keep to deadlines, and all I can say is to please bear with me. As I said to someone, what would you rather have, the newsletter a week or so late, or no newsletter at all!

If any member would like to contribute to the newsletter in any way, then please do so. I am always looking for articles, reviews, ideas, press cuttings and anything else you feel that others may enjoy.

Members that have had the newsletter for a while, will notice that the newsletter is going through somewhat of a change. I am adding colour to the front

page to make it more attractive and also hopefully to the inside pages. (there are cost implications to this i.e. colour printer cartridges at £7.00 each). Also, I am taking the newsletter back in time to look at the people, sightings and the things that most people tend to forget... Where did it all start. So there will a UFOlogy history lesson in the next newsletter along with a look at the people that have influenced the subject and those that have just rubbished the whole subject. Also, I will be printing historical sightings from the Hampshire area and delving into the Southampton Evening Echo archives... Who said that there are no UFO sightings on the Isle of Wight. So, things will be changing slowly and there may be other moves within the group that may have some relevance to its content over the coming issues. So please bear with me over the coming issues.

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Source: Popular Mechanics Magazine
<http://popularmechanics.com/> February
 2004 When UFOs Arrive - What Will You
 Do? By Jim Wilson The U.S. and other
 world (sic) governments already have
 detailed secret plans for first contact.

EXO BIOLOGY

Within the scientific community, the question is no longer whether extraterrestrial life exists, but if ET is smart enough to do long division. Scientists are of two minds regarding the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. Skeptics acknowledge simple life-forms might be found on other planets, but insist that intelligent life is unique to Earth.

Their belief is based on the assumption that Earth possesses unique physical attributes, including a magnetic field that deflects cosmic rays and a moon that absorbs asteroids. Together, these protective features make Earth a rare safe harbor - one that nurtured the evolution of primitive life-forms into intelligent beings. The opposing camp sees the prospect for discovering alien life in more mathematical terms. Its touchstone is the Drake Equation, which links the probability of discovering extraterrestrial intelligence to factors such as the size of the universe and the number of stars with earthlike planets. With the discovery of each new planet beyond Earth's solar system there are now more than 100 - the odds of encountering intelligent alien life increase. Governments and international organizations around the world have taken notice of the changing odds.

No governmental official has gone on record claiming that UFOs are real, let alone a threat. Yet with little public fanfare, they have begun preparing for the single most important event in human history: first contact. That is, the moment earthlings discover incontrovertible proof that they are not alone.

Early Warning Unless ET materializes from another dimension in the middle of the Super Bowl, humans most likely will have some advance warning of its arrival.

How much time we get to straighten up for extraterrestrial company depends upon who spots ET first. The privately funded SETI Institute uses radio telescopes owned by observatories around the world to sweep the sky for signals broadcast by advanced civilizations. If ET has read Emily Post, or her intergalactic equivalent, and calls ahead, we could have years, even decades, to prepare for first contact. Unfortunately, the current SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) project can afford to look at only small swatches of the sky, so any extraterrestrial courtesy calls probably will be missed.

A more likely scenario is that the U.S. Air Force would spot ET's spacecraft as it traverses the void between the Earth and the moon. Using powerful radar and optical telescopes in Hawaii, Greenland, Florida and the Indian Ocean, the Air Force Space Command tracks satellites, monitors missile launches, and spots baseball- and larger-size bits of orbiting debris with the hope of preventing it from perforating a space shuttle or the International Space Station. If ET turns up on Space Command's radar, it would mean the alien visitors are only hours or minutes away. Countdown To Contact

The broad-brush outline for Earth's response to the first alien encounter is set out in an international agreement called the "Declaration of Principles Concerning Activities Following the Detection of Extraterrestrial Intelligence." Written by a committee of scientists organized by the SETI Institute, the declaration spells out what astronomers should do, and what they should avoid doing, immediately after first contact.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the agreement is that astronomers who sign on to the declaration agree to keep the news of an imminent contact under their hat until the astronomy community and authorities have been notified. The declaration also establishes fairly specific guidelines regarding the protection of the radio frequencies that alien civilizations might use to communicate with Earth. As soon as a radio signal is confirmed as originating from an extraterrestrial source, the International Telecommunications Union would ask governments around the world to forbid use of that portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. It is hoped that ET will have sufficiently studied

human habits to understand that calling earthlings on the frequencies used for microwave ovens and garage door openers will be interpreted as an aberrant act.

Close Encounter About five years ago the first contact protocols were put to the test. For 12 hours, SETI astronomers marveled at the prospect that their golden moment had arrived. A signal that repeated in an organized pattern was detected beaming straight at the Earth from 1 million miles in space. The first priority was to alert radio astronomers around the world to redirect their telescopes. The signal from the distant stationary object quickly faded as the relentless rotation of the Earth swept it out of the telescope's listening range. Douglas Vakoch, the SETI Institute's social scientist responsible for preparing Earth's reply to an extraterrestrial message, tells POPULAR MECHANICS what happened next: "At this point, all of our discussions were internal to our team. We didn't want to cry wolf. Then, in the midst of the process, we get a call from The New York Times." So much for the secrecy provision of the SETI protocol. Within hours, the story evaporated. The SETI team identified the mystery signal as a data transmission from SOHO, a sun-watching observatory on an almost-stationary orbit about 1 million miles from Earth. Vakoch says he was not surprised that the story of the possible alien contact leaked so quickly. "These guidelines have no legal force. They have been drafted in the hope of getting broader discussion."

As far as the U.S. government is concerned, that discussion started and ended more than 40 years ago. Regardless of how the world's astronomy community might want to handle first contact, Uncle Sam has ideas of his own. And they rest on the assumption that ET is first and foremost an illegal alien. Presumed Dangerous The question of how humanity might react to its first contact with intelligent aliens was officially raised in the late 1950s by the then newly created National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Curious as to how discoveries about the origin of the universe might affect society as a whole, NASA contracted with the Brookings

Institution, a leading think tank, to research the question. Only a small part of its 100-page answer, which came to be known as "The Brookings Report," dealt with alien encounter. But it contained a stern warning. "Anthropological files contain many examples of societies, sure of their place in the universe, which have disintegrated when they had to associate with previously unfamiliar societies espousing different ideas and different life ways; others that survived such an experience usually did so by paying the price of changes in values and attitudes and behavior."

In 1972, as engineers prepared the first space mission that would travel outside of Earth's solar system, NASA decided to ignore warnings in the 1960 "Brookings Report" about the dangers inherent in contact with an advanced alien race. Instead, the space agency sent an invitation for extraterrestrials to visit earth. A gold-anodized aluminum plaque engraved with a map showing the location of Earth was attached to the Pioneer 10 spacecraft. When it sent its last message, in January 2003, it was more than 7 billion miles along on a trip that will take it to the star Aldebaran State Of Emergency

If ET turns up at NASA's doorstep bearing that invitation, it is in for a surprise. Instead of getting a handshake from the head of NASA, it will be handcuffed by an FBI agent dressed in a Biosafety Level 4 suit. Instead of sleeping in the Lincoln Bedroom at the White House, the alien will be whisked away to the Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Center on Plum Island, off the coast of New York's Long Island. Here it will be poked and probed by doctors from the National Institutes of Health. A Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) will tow away its spacecraft.

Unfriendly as this welcome may seem, it is the chain of events that most likely will follow the visitor's arrival. Unique as the appearance of an alien-piloted spacecraft may be, the event incorporates elements of three situations familiar to federal emergency response workers: a plane crash, the release of radioactive material, and the capture of an animal suspected of harboring a contagious

disease. Responsibilities in these situations are spelled out in Presidential Executive Orders. Unless it is spewing exhaust, the craft would be assumed to be nuclear powered. This determination would put NEST technicians in charge of securing the craft and moving it to a DOE facility, most likely in New Mexico, where it would be in close proximity to the Sandia and Los Alamos nuclear laboratories and the White Sands Missile Range. International agreements also put NEST on call if the craft lands out of the United States, as happened in 1978 when a Soviet satellite leaking nuclear fuel landed in the Canadian wilderness. NEST, however, would operate in the background. In a nuclear emergency, the FBI is put in charge of public safety, public health and public information. Those, at least, are the plans. How things might actually turn out is anyone's guess. Skeptics often ask why UFO sightings seem to take place only in remote locations instead of on busy city streets. Perhaps ET knows what earthlings have in mind when it lands. "A signal that repeated in an organized pattern was detected beaming straight at the Earth from 1 million miles in space." "Only a small part of 'The Brookings Report' dealt with alien encounter. But it contained a stern warning."

The Death of UFOlogy and the Internet.

With the Internet spreading around the world faster than the plague, we are becoming a non letter writing, magazine, newspaper and News society. If you have access to the internet, then you have access to the world at your fingertips. You can access Newspapers, TV stations, Radio stations, UFO groups, and anything you like to imagine. So, closet UFOlogists can just sit at home and read about UFOlogy from the Internet for free. So, where does that leave the UFO group newsletters and magazines - in the dinosaur age... Yes, I admit not everyone has access to the Internet, but UFO interest in the local groups and their publications is no longer there. SUFOG has seen this... The Internet is more up-to-date than the monthly or quarterly publications and it is easier to log on the Internet for free than pay between £8 - £20 to subscribe to a UFO group or even go to UFO

group meetings.

As a researcher, the Internet holds a wealth of information and that is why I have come to the following decision. This has really been hard for me, but, one that had to be made. With over 2,500 UFO magazines dating back to the 1950's clogging up my house, it is time for them to go. Having picked a couple out, I decided to check the Internet and lo and behold, there was the information at my fingertips rather than going through 2,500 magazines and then 30 pages of the magazine once found. I have decided to sell my magazines, some 2,000 from 1980 onwards because the Internet has it all and much more. BUT, I found the magazines pre 1980 information was not so readily available. Also, I have thinned my book collection and again apart from one or two post 1980 publications, I am again selling all the books I have post this period, because again, 90% just go over the same old cases from the 80's and 90's that are available from the Internet. So, I am going to concentrate my research pre 1980 and obtain material from 1947 - 1979 which is available - **ON THE INTERNET... Full Circle ?**

Steve Gerrard (SUFOG Chairman)

Dorchester 4th April 2004.

To emphasis the above item, SUFOG attended the Dorchester conference organized by David Kingston. Around 130 people attended this event with speakers including Reg Presley and Busty Taylor. From this, SUFOG sold £5.00 worth of merchandise (3 SUFOG Newsletters). We had 29 Membership application forms and 27 SUFOG flyers taken on the day. As we go into the 3rd week after the event, not one new member membership form has been returned. Since this event cost SUFOG £28.00 and we only sold £5.00 worth of merchandise, then at this rate, SUFOG's finances will not be able to withstand this and we will no longer be able to afford to attend such events.

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Southampton UFO Group

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*** BY-MONTHLY ***

The 'Storm' that wasn't.

Thursday the 25th March... a heavy, cloudy, day, 4.00 p.m. approx. Sat on my lounge settee here in Netley Abbey I felt the room 'vibrate' and heard a rumble at the same time as a 'Flash' illuminated EVERYTHING! The whole sky. At the same moment my door chimes went off followed by the fire alarm, and I leapt out of the settee wondering what the hell was going on! No one was there but I saw that ALL the fire doors had shut themselves. Puzzled, I went looking for a fire or whatever... only two people standing at a window who has also seen and heard the incident described. BOTH said it was "weird"... Not the 'usual' thunderstorm. I phoned a UFO group colleague on the far side of Southampton who, yes, had heard and seen the incident... also described as 'strange'. Her TV had gone off.

I rang the Police Central Control to see if any other reports. The phone stayed silent.... No ring tone. I tried the standard police number. Nothing. Silence.

Next morning I rang the Southern Daily Echo News desk. No reports. No headlines envisaged. They would 'enquire around'. Nothing came back from them. Later that same day our SUFOG founder and magazine newsletter editor Steve G rang me. He spoke about the 'storm' and confirmed the police phones 'went down'. He had been 'out' in it when the event occurred. Described it as 'strange'. Met hailstones too. Next day I rang the Echo news desk again. No reports! Normally this kind of incident would make the front pages even. They offered me a reporter... I said YES. He never rang. I spoke to our sheltered flats complex manageress... she confirmed she'd encountered the huge flash and 'strange' single roll of thunder while some two or three miles away in her car... it 'scared' her, she said. I came across a close friend who was dozing in bed before going on her hospital nightshift who was aroused by the thunder and flash of lightning plus the sound of her front door opening!

She went out into the passage and, yes, the locked door was open to the full stretch of the security chain! I sent an email to Meridian TV on the Monday, 29th March, asking for any information and WHY had it not made the news. No reply... then or since. Nothing! I later said to Southampton UFO Group's Steve G... he'd heard NOTHING from anyone... since he is connected with Hampshire Police this was unusual. His comment? 'strange'.

Today... 7th April... my TV meter man came. He is into and interested in UFO's and the Paranormal...

has had 'experiences'! I casually mentioned I was 'up to my eyes' in the stuff and mentioned also the 'funny storm'. Before I could go on he said he'd had something strange happen that both he and his wife had no answer for. Went on to describe a recent occasion when his wife went out the back door and locked it, taking the key with her. When she came back she walked in asking why he had left the door open. He went and looked... sure enough the locked door WAS open to the extent of the security chain! I could hardly wait to tell him, amid my own chuckles, of the strange "coincidence" with my friends door! I also asked him WHEN did their experience occur. He thought... and then he said it was on the Thursday 25th March he was SURE since it was some sort date that was important to him. I'd casually said it was about two weeks before. We fell about! I then spoke about certain so far unfounded suspicions I had about the matter and my ongoing "communications". This brought about some discussion on the Iraq problem. HE came back with a late night news item... about TWO WEEKS AGO... that had Bush promising an 'experts' examination of the 'UFO Enigma' right NOW! Something I didn't know ! DO YOU? I reminded the TV meter chap that Blair and Bush are due for a meeting to discuss Iraq in the next week or so... was there a connection or is this all speculation. I have now also recalled the email from our Steve Gerrard that gave information from the Dorchester Conference of the 4th April that alleged UFO Magazine would resume publication in May! Coincidence? I also recalled, today, that I'd told our Steve that the sky 'looked different' and 'something had changed' following that instant storm. I still feel that. Strongly!

I rest my case ! If ANYONE can add anything that reinforces all this I would be happy, indeed, eager, to receive it.

By the way, our fire doors here, covering 54 flats in two blocks, all out, took three days to replace the 'burnt out' system. I refuse to believe NO ONE else suffered damage in the area... the search goes on. My next stop is the chief Constable of Hampshire. Who I have a casual, if infrequent, acquaintance with.

By the way, my TV meter man lives in Wimbourne, just east of Bournemouth, which possibly confirms the witnesses who saw the lightning being right about it covering the whole sky!

A 1970's sighting I had of an orange "globe" hovering over Wimbourne... the local Bournemouth Echo had one other confirming report when I rang them... maybe another "odd" coincidence when I found where my meter man lived about a year ago.

OK. Why am I interested in the "storm"? It's the SECRECY!

No one... but no one, is replying!

Ernie Sears (PRO SUFOG).

The passing of UFO Magazine. **What is happening..?**

Many people have asked me what has happened to UFO Magazine. Well, here is what I have been told and hopefully it is fairly close to the truth. After the death of Graham Birdsall back in 2003, I understand that His wife Christine did not want to continue with the magazine. I can understand this and the thought of continuing the magazine without Graham would be very hard. Also, Graham was the captain of the ship and without a captain, a ship loses control. So, I also understand that no one else has bought the company and that it will not be sold, just closed down. As for the staff, well, Russel Callaghan and Gary Heseltine are launching an Internet magazine called UFOMonthly.Com and a free downloadable copy will be available on the 27th April (If you have access to a computer of course!). There will be a charge of £1.50 per issue downloaded and is a 'Glossy' type magazine.

If you look at the front cover of the magazine and its contents, doesn't it look similar to UFO Magazine ? Some of the articles were to appear in the May edition of UFO Magazine, yet they seem to be appearing here. To me, it seems that this an internet version of UFO Magazine.. But why..? Well, someone must hold all the material that was due to appear in future editions of UFO Magazine and also how are they going

to fill a 30 page Internet publication without ALREADY having the information to hand to put into it. So, UFO Magazine appears to be continuing in a different format and a lot more cheaper. We will see how popular it appeal is over the coming months. The only problem is what about those without Internet access. SUFOG has had enquiries due to the fact that they haven't got access to the Internet. So, I think what will happen, is that someone will subscribe, download the magazine, and pass it or sell it onto friends etc and make the money. It will cost 1 person £15 a year, but if they print it and sell it at £2.00 a copy... Well, need I say more... What also intrigues me is that there has been a request for people to send information

for this new venture... Why? Groups such as ours, have our own web site and no doubt will publish it on there and not send them into UFOMonthly.Com. So UFO Groups will not be sending in information and if people are not on the Internet, then how are they going to (1) Know about the publication (2) thus they will not send in information. I feel that the new venture may well struggle, but I may be wrong. Only time will tell... What follows is the front page advert and words of wisdom from Russel Callaghan

Taken from UFOMonthly.Com....

The decision made by Gary Heseltine and myself to set about producing a downloadable magazine in the style that readers have become used to was not taken easy.

Since the sudden illness and tragic passing of my late father-in-law Graham W. Birdsall 'founding editor of the UK based newsstand publication UFO magazine' in September last year, I sat in the editors hot seat for six months until Grahams wife Christine decided to close the company.

Gary and I realise that the many of loyal readers who subscribed or bought UFO Magazine from the newsstand each month will have a genuine void in their routines. Our choice to use the Internet as a publication medium was made because the actual cost of publishing a glossy newsstand title was basically prohibitive. However the Internet based UFO Monthly will look and read like a glossy publication.

It will be produced in the PDF format and although many of you will have 'Adobe Acrobat reader' (trademark) installed on your computers if you don't the program is a free download.

If you have ever downloaded software from the Internet you will have probably received an instruction manual in the PDF format.

The file system lets the reader flick through page by page or go directly to a numbered page of their choice, you can

ISSUE 1 FREE

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also print all or Individual pages if you so wish.

The first issue of UFO Monthly will be available as a free download from April 27th 2004 and thereafter on the 27th of each month for the small payment of £1.50 UK Sterling per issue.

All major credit and debit cards are accepted and no matter what country you reside in our bank will convert your payment into local currency on your bank statement.

To give overseas readers an idea of how much money £1.50 represents here are a few examples.

UK petrol £4.00 per gallon

USA gas £1.20 per gallon

UK bottle Bud in a bar £2.50

USA bottle Bud in a bar £1.50

So we feel sure you will agree the price of UFO monthly represents great value for money.

We hope our clientele will enjoy the features and articles published in a style we feel you will be familiar with.

We are happy to receive submissions for consideration to be used in our publication and advertisers can take advantage of some special early deals.

For those interested in placing adverts or submitting work for possible publication will find our contact details on the home page.

Changes to the Group.

In the next edition there will be an update on the changes that ARE going to take place over the next couple of months. Following a recent conversation with a leading member of the group, I have made a number of decisions that are going to effect the group more on a local basis and will not effect subscribers to the newsletter. Hopefully, things will not change in such a way as to your subscriptions to the newsletter. But, now I have made other decisions that will have a significant impact on the group. Now I know how other people feel about the group, it is time for me to take some serious action to save the group as well as this publication for the future. Many groups have been and gone, and as for this group, I hope it is going to be around for a lot longer. Although we are likely to become more streamlined, unless there are changes, then this will effect the group, and maybe in the future, subscribers to this publication. Watch this space !!!!!

SUFOG DIARY - 2004..

May 19th - Group Meeting

June 16th - Group Meeting

July 21st - Group Meeting

August 18th - Group Meeting

Sept 15th - Group Meeting

October 20th - Group Meeting

November 17th - Group Meeting

December 15th - Group Meeting

Please contact the Editor before the above dates to confirm that the Sky Watch / Meeting are still going ahead.

This is because Sky Watch's are likely to be cancelled / changed due to weather conditions, and other commitments that the editor is not aware of at the time of publication of the newsletter..



"Take me to your stove? ... You idiot!
Give me that book!"

Mr. Woods and Bedhampton raises it's head again.

The below item are the words of Mr. Woods.
(Part-Extract of article printed only)
(For the rest, visit Rense.Com)

On a final note, I hope in the near future the truth will be finally revealed to the public about exactly what is going on in our skies. From my own experience I have observed some amazing occurrences regarding this phenomenon. I have regularly witnessed unknown species or life forces that regularly fly in the skies above my area that perform clearly intelligent & out of this world behavior whether extra-terrestrial, multi-dimensional or earthbound, they're here!! It's a fact!!!!

Another thing I would like to say about the pitfalls of going public with my experiences & footage is that it is a waste of time trying to convince every person of your sincerity & honesty in regards to what you have filmed or experienced. In my experience since going public I have been subjected to all the negative emotions imaginable from various individuals who have never actually met me in person but who feel some how disgruntled towards me for one reason or another -- the rivalry, jealousy and resentment that engulfs this subject has been a real eye opener for me, from local UFO group leaders who feel bitter that you chose not to involve them in your case **(I think Mr. Woods means the Southampton UFO Group at this point, but obvious he not willing to put his head on the chopping block and name the group or the Chairman Steve Gerrard)**, as well as a few so-called sky watchers who proclaim themselves as experts in the field of UFOlogy off the back of filming a few sightings & will criticize anyone else that comes along with anything new because you are a direct threat to there own self importance in the subject. I can go on and on, but the bottom line is, it's a waste of time trying to get approval or trying to convince these types of guys of anything; all you can do is be honest and open as you can about your experiences, ignore the crap from the negative chatterers that sadly plague this subject, and hope the majority of people find what you have to say and film interesting.

(Part of an update on Rense.com listed on the Internet sent to them by Mr. Anthony Woods along

with his latest clips of UFO footage over Bedhampton, Havant). Also, In January 2003, Mr. Woods appeared on American Radio and was interviewed by Jeffe Rense on the 17th January 2003. Funny thing is, Mr. Woods seems very happy to appear on American Radio and post his footage on American Web Sites, but not on British Web Sites or appear on British Radio. What is he afraid that British UFOlogists and the British Press are going to find out?

Following on from this, recent press reports showed Bedhampton as a UFO hotspot. But surely, for it to be a 'Hotspot' there would have to be more than 1 individual reporting UFO sightings over a period of time and multiple sightings of different objects. Well, Mr. Woods and Co. are the only 3 people to have reported UFO's from this area in the past 7 years... A UFO 'hotspot'... Not likely... More like a UFO 'Cold Spot'... So, reader beware and if you have recently read about this in the paper, then take it with a pinch of salt, and if you want to go UFO spotting, then go to Bonneybridge, as you are more than likely to see one there than you are over Bedhampton... Unless your name is Anthony Woods.

SUFOG Skywatch's...

Right folks, if you want to come on a group skywatch, then listen up.. I have looked at the diary, and the two dates will go ahead...

17th July - New Forest. Details in the May/June Newsletter reference location and times etc.

14th August - 15th August 2004 - Avebury Skywatch - Meet at the Barge Public House at Alton Barnes for 12 noon.



NEWSPAPER REVIEWS
BY ERNIE SEARS.

Not a lot but what there is turned out to be interesting and quite dramatic!

THE DAILY MAIL on APRIL THEFIRST (!) had a full page article by Michael Hanlon the Science Editor with the headline "Yes there IS life Out There! with scientists discovering 10 billion other "earths" in the Universe. Approaching it carefully as Hanlon was the same guy who punched holes in the UFO enigma in a previous Mail. Shock and horror as a Professor Barrie Jones came up with the estimate above at a Royal Astronomical Society meeting the day before the article. Hanlon went into great detail as to why this meant there COULD, MIGHT be, life of some kind "out there" but was guilty, careful maybe, of inserting those little quips about "no little green men on Mars so far," and "if there's life out there, where the hell is it?" and then "of course the universe may be teeming with alien civilisations who know about us but prefer to keep us in the dark" and "or maybe intelligent life has an unfortunate tendency to self destruct before it has a chance to start exploring space properly" God! Isn't he THICK? Doesn't he look around at US? Well. there we go again.. the Mail blows hot and then cold.

THE PSYCHIC NEWS for the 4th May headlines our subject with 'Don't dismiss the possibility

of aliens and UFOs existing' as Tom Johnston slates a previous writer William Stafford as being 'narrow-minded' in calling aliens etc 'fantasies'. Since if a spirit world exists then there can be communication with other worlds. To which I wrote and said 'THERE IS'!

THE PLYMOUTH EVENING HERALD back and front coloured pages arrived on my desk courtesy of Bob Boyd of the Plymouth UFO Research Group and followed a report in the Daily Mail, Daily Express, and elsewhere which put me in touch with BOB... we swapped cuttings. The stunning still being investigated photos of a hovering object over Plymouth from the incident which took place in January and had since been investigated by the city's Royal Naval Base... result 'unidentified' so far. Members at our monthly meetings have seen the pictures and have received photo copies from me. The photographer didn't see the object until the film was developed and was testing out his new digital camera. Bob Boyd has promised me a full report and I await it with interest.

THE DAILY EXPRESS and **THE SUN** both published startling details of a strangely publicised item concerning "where to go for the best UFO sightings" and "Where to go if you want to be beamed up" while **THE TIMES** of the same 8th April date had a small paragraph with similar details. I was shocked and alerted to all this by a Meridian TV weather man who suddenly asked the Six O'clock News presenters where in Hampshire was the best place to see a UFO? The answer he gave was "Bedhampton". The very next morning... the item was on the 7th April.. the early morning Meridian News WEATHER GIRL came up with the same information but with a whole list of place names,! 0 in number, and with the intriguing statement that and ex-UFO official at the MOD was responsible for the figures.

THE SUN... had FORTY places. The Sun also disclosed that Nick Pope... of course it was he!... had composed the list for a booklet that... wait for it... was being issued by the Brewers of Grolsch beer. Since then we have seen the TV adverts complete with the greys etc! Rather odd, don't you think? Especially those weather forecasters being given the job. Because why? because we had that mysterious single thunderclap and total lightning flash just previously... related in a special report in this SUFOG issue. Incidentally, that Daily Express coverage also had a photo and article of a Russian experimental "saucer" which failed to develop through lack of finances...it said. Wherefore the Americans who dropped their own saucer research have signed a £95 million contract for a 500lb prototype

which will be built in Russia and tested in 2006 in Maryland USA! The eventual plan is to have one carrying up to 1,300 troops or military equipment! Well well! Hmmm!

THE DAILY MAIL LETTERS page had a small item on the 12th April from a Joe McGonagle... now I KNOW that name!... disagreeing with that earlier article that had know it all Michael Hanlon telling the more ignorant that UFO's don't have ANYONE interested anymore. Plenty of information, Joe said, 'not always accurate', on cable and satellite TV plus the internet.

THE MIRROR's "PSYCHIC PAGE" took us into the Life After Death areas hosted by Rupert Sheldrake... I recall his books etc ages ago on the theories of ALL LIFE being linked and his thesis and experiments on "Talking to plants" which I could certainly relate to via my healing experiences by which I entered THE ALL as I call it! Two Mirror articles on the 8th April and another date linked have had me writing to Rupert on my own "Life After Death" experiences... still ongoing as you will have read in the last Newsletter!

OK... there ARE a couple of other cuttings lurking somewhere in the mass of papers here which re invading my bedroom now! See next issue... and I am SURE very important events are in the offing which will make the next issue something else!

Dear colleague,

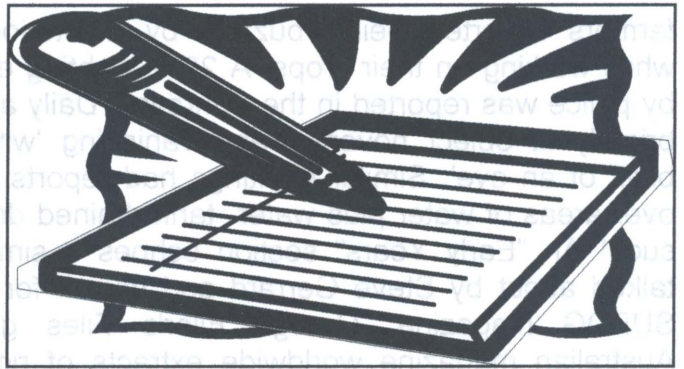
This is to notify you that as of April 19th 2004, my e-mail address will be :

philip@mantle8353fsworld.co.uk

Please amend your address books accordingly and lease keep in touch.

Regards,
Philip Mantle.

www.beyondroswell.com



MAGAZINE REVIEWS
BY ERNIE SEARS.

Some quite interesting magazines to hand...the contents often ignored by the media, concerned as they are with scandals and the conflict in Iraq and even nearer to home... read on, my friends!

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for Winter 2003 which our Editor Steve has acquired has again demonstrated it's quality which mostly began in 1955...when I first began to subscribe to it...a routine which was broken in the sixties due to my changed by experiences outlook. This issue has some material concerning formations of objects right over London in 2003 plus recent sighting reports worldwide which include occupant contacts! Flying triangles feature, flying "cigars" or "motherships" filmed from Adamski's in 1961 right up to 2003 and, incredibly, 2004! Over London and Wolverhampton and Glasgow. A London Sept. 2003 example which included smaller objects for FOUR HOURS! So where was the media coverage? AH! You may well ask! I myself am considering subscribing to FSR especially in view of our UFO MAGAZINE loss. Although... see elsewhere! Email address for FSR orders Lunula9@aol.com.

The Australian UFO Bulletin for March 2004 is its usual pocket sized product... published by the Victorian UFO Research Society under it's Editor and President Judith Magee incorporated in 1988. Items within include Paul Norman's "On the UFO Trail" 2004 claims video'd skywatch sightings THIS YEAR which was notable for the glowing reactions of one STRUCTURED object to a halogen spotlight, several times. Down Under

farmers reported being buzzed by mysterious lights while working on their crops. A 2002 sighting encounter by police was reported in the Sunraysia Daily and had a brightly lit object hovering and vanishing 'without the blink of an eye'. Similar sightings had reports of "craft" over areas of water plus water tank drained dry by one such! An "Early Years" section echoes a similar such talked about by Steve Gerrard and myself for our own SUFOG magazine. George Filer's Files gives the Australian magazine worldwide extracts of right up to date sightings over the USA; While Peter Davenport writes on International reports while Lucuis Farish cover a Chelmsford England report of flying triangles and speeding lights in the region this year. A domed disk filmed over Whitlesea Australia January 15th January 2004. An enquiry followed with various suggestions and sketches etc which included a bug or bird! Enlargements show a "dome" etc. Plus the veracity of the two witnesses seem to dismiss the alternatives As does the full photo of object and surroundings. Australia always seem to have fair share of sightings. The Australian UFO Bulletin is an excellent example of this. Subs \$7.00 dollars or non-members, up to \$25 for full membership ... all of which includes meetings and suppers! Try Victorian UFO Research Society, PO Box 10443, Moorabbin, Vic, 3189, Australia.

NEXUS is quite one of the most interesting magazines still going.. SUFOG member Lorraine Michelin sends me her copy every two months and I reciprocate with phone calls and my own Rapport, BUFORA, etc, magazines etc. I get to keep NEXUS.. thanks, Lorraine!.. but need mine back for my ever increasing mountain of such! Which means I mislay SOME! My NEXUS copy for Feb / March surfaced however.. got the current one SOMEWHERE.. and its contents include Global News, Information Control and Social Control (as ominous as it sounds!) Enzyme Nutrition Therapy, Rockefeller Internationalism, Aids. the Solution!, Suppressed Psychic Discoveries...tell me the story!, The Umno Letters, The Twilight Zone, Book Reviews, Music Reviews, Classified ads etc. A worthwhile product. Try UK Office, email ; nexus@ukoffice.u-net.com or tel; 01342 324574. A worldwide mag. that is doing editions in Russian and soon in Spanish with a Conference in Amsterdam recently. A product which is unafraid and will, if you are not careful, blow your mind! Or maybe.. like me!.. add to the KNOWLEDGE and THE TRUTH!

OVNI is a very old friend type magazine.. as it its Editor Omar Fowler.. we go back to, the seventies.. and its cheerful yellow cover always gives me, you, a nice

feeling. A survivor, is Omar! An Editorial "exposure" of some of those Mars NASA photos reveals "doctoring" of the actual colours. Thus the soil is sandy not red, the sky is blue and the trees are green! NASA says correct colours 'difficult' to reproduce but on the lander are coloured correction bands. Oh, well! New Comet is approaching says page two! So what's new? Extraordinary object over Derby 4th Feb 2004, an orange globe. An apparent Wartime plane, a four engine Lancaster suggested, appeared out of the mist said two witnesses in a car, in January 2004. No sound although it was low enough to crash they said. The area's Skipton aerial phenomena expert Donald Cooper said he was inundated with about 30 calls from Yorkshire people reporting similar sightings at various date and places as well as the fore going. Two "bullet shaped" objects reported.. one in 1972 from Nottinghamshire and one over Matlock Derbyshire 1966. I recall a similar object over, I believe, South Africa quite some years ago. being reported. That one had "bands" around it's "fuselage". Ovni includes a detailed and long "contactee" story from a Peruvian source circa October 1974. More in next issue of SUFOG...part one is six pages long and is a story.. not unique.. of prior paranormal synchronisms, inter dimensional aspects, telepathy, much multi-witnessed. Ovni available bi-monthly from Omar Fowler, 94 The Circle, Sinfin, Derby DE 24 9H, one pound each copy, membership available.



A question about UFOs has been asked at the European Parliament.

The question was asked by Sebastiano Musumeci, an Italian MEP. He uses the phrase "unexplained atmospheric phenomena". His question suggested that as the issue is not confined to any one Member State, the European Commission might usefully take a role in co-ordinating or promoting research, possibly assigning the task to a body such as the European Space Agency.

Subject: Creation of a Community body for the study of unexplained atmospheric phenomena..

Parliamentary questions

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0198/04

by Sebastiano Musumeci (UEN) to the Commission.

(20 January 2004)

For a long time now, sightings of unexplained atmospheric phenomena have been reported in all corners of the globe.

Some of these phenomena have been classified as 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs), sightings of which not only cause considerable perplexity but also fuel theories - so far lacking any foundation - on the probable existence of aliens.

The serious study of the phenomena in question by various European space centres and research establishments warrants special attention from the European Commission, since these phenomena do not fall within the scope of individual Member State competence.

In the light of the above, would the

Commission not consider it appropriate to promote and coordinate research and information on unexplained atmospheric phenomena at a Europe-wide level, possibly assigning this responsibility to a specialised and experienced body such as SEPRA (Service d'Expertise des Phénomènes Rares Aérospatiaux) in Toulouse or the European Space Agency?

Answer given by Mr Busquin on behalf of the Commission

(written question: P-0198/04)

(1 March 2004)

Following an extensive consultation for the development of the European Space Policy ("Green Paper")⁽¹⁾ the Commission adopted in December 2003 a White Paper entitled "Space: a new European frontier for an expanding Union"⁽²⁾.

The White Paper, which has been prepared in close collaboration with the scientific community and the European Space Agency, sets an action plan for implementing the future European Space policy. The actions recommended by the Commission to strengthen European excellence in space science are presented in Section 4.2.

On 28 January 2004, the Commission had the opportunity to address some of these issues in its oral reply to the oral question O-84/03 during Parliament's January 2004 session⁽³⁾ on the content of the White Paper.

One specific activity which may be of particular interest to the Honourable Member concerns an action recently launched in the context of the 6th Framework Programme for Research⁽⁴⁾. This action aims at promoting cooperation between Europe's national research funding agencies and national research organisations. It includes a task specifically addressing European solar terrestrial and atmospheric research. This endeavour should help to improve the level of understanding of atmospheric phenomena and to provide space weather services.

(But does the answer , answer the question?)

BOOK REVIEWS By Ernie Sears

Two books by the same author arrived on my desk courtesy of SUFOG founder and Editor recently. A look at the titles, "Talking to Extraterrestrials "2002 and "Calling on Extraterrestrials "2003, are both by prolific lady writer Lisette Larkins, who also has another book slated for the bookshops in May, which her publishers, Hampton Roads Publishing Company Inc, 1125 Stoney Ridge Road, Charlottesville, VA 2390, have sent me a mouth watering draft copy to be reviewed in its finished form soon. Running through all these are little quotes on the book jackets and in the pages which made me do a double take until I realised a startling fact! Much of the hard to believe facts on Lisette's abductions, encounters, one to one, face to face, mind to mind, contain elements of my own experiences over many years, as well as connecting with other more famous people such as Whiteley Streiber.

This convinced me of the plethora of incidents Ms Larkins relates that have 'taken her consciousness to the deepest reaches of the universe' which will let her introduce you to 'our new, Universal Community'. Detailed questions to, and equally such answers from, the "ET's" as Lisette calls them. 'Eleven steps to inviting your own UFO encounters' tells it just like it is. I learnt things! I learnt, too, that my mental acceptance of all that Lisette tells one finds you reaching areas of another Reality that one has only skirted around hitherto. Thus the KNOWLEDGE in a more receptive "mind" increases with its additional UNDERSTANDING. If there were any slight hesitations as I read, they were eliminated by events that came to pass... events foreseen, foretold, and ongoing.

Finally, Lisette Larkins was a speaker on the recent Laughlin, Nevada, Conference, and, according to Australia's ACERN witness support organisation, Mary Rowell, Lisette was very well received. Mary, by the way, was also a speaker there. after the loss of the cancelled Leeds Conference. It DOES seem that the USA and AUSTRALIA

etc take our investigations more seriously than here in the UK. However, I am hopeful we'll all pull together in MIND BODY and SPIRIT. Watch my lips!

Sightings from the past - Magazines.

I want to start a new section in the newsletter looking at sightings from the Hampshire area, that have appeared in UFO publications pre 1980. As I have mentioned before, I have started collecting UFO material pre 1980, and in some of this great material I have come across sightings that many of us may not be aware of. So, I will be featuring one or two over the coming issues, that certainly got me thinking.

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A Historical Perspective of UFOlogy

DONALD EDWARD KEYHOE

(1897-1988)

BIOGRAPHY

Donald E. Keyhoe was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, on June 20, 1897, at the dawn of human flight. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in the Class of 1920, with a B.S. degree and the commission of a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. During his senior year at the Academy, Robert Goddard published his theoretical paper, "A Method of Reaching Extreme Altitudes" (i.e. rockets), and two years later Hermann Oberth, the famous German space pioneer, wrote "The Rocket Into Interplanetary Space."

The Wright Brothers had flown at Kitty Hawk, N.C., when Keyhoe was a young child. Balloon flights were also much in the news. The young Lieutenant became a Naval aviator, piloting both balloons and airplanes in the period between the World Wars. In the years leading to World War II, Lieutenant Keyhoe commanded a flight of Naval seaplanes being ferried from the U.S. to Guam, and served on that island. After a night crash at Guam, he retired from active duty and began freelance writing.

Joining Government service, he became editor of the Coast and Geodetic Survey publications, then he was appointed Chief of Information for the Aeronautics Branch of the U.S. Department of Commerce. (This agency later evolved into the Federal Aviation Administration.) After Floyd Bennett flew over the North Pole on May 9, 1926, in a historic flight, Keyhoe was assigned to manage his nationwide tour in the "Josephine Ford" North Pole plane. Then when Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh about a year later successfully hopped the Atlantic in the "Spirit of St. Louis" and became a national and international hero, Keyhoe was assigned as his aide, accompanying the flier on his triumphant 48-State tour. Later he wrote the charming and popular book *Flying With Lindbergh* (New York: Putnam's, 1928).

During the 1930s and early 1940s Keyhoe wrote fictional aviation adventure stories for then popular pulp magazines, inventing the heroic fliers "Phil Strange" and "Dick Knight," among other heroes and villains. He also contributed numerous factual articles to major magazines of the day on a wide range of topics, many popularizing aviation. The magazines included *Saturday Evening Post*, *Cosmopolitan*, *American*, *Redbook*, and *True*. Other articles and features appeared in the Sunday newspaper supplements *This Week* and *American Weekly*.

As war loomed in Europe, Keyhoe published *M-Day: If War Comes, What Your Government Plans for You* (New York: Dutton, 1940) dealing with U.S. mobilization for warfare. During World War II he was recalled to active duty with the rank of Major and served in the Pentagon in the Naval Aviation Training Division.

After the war he again retired to private life and resumed his writing career.

POST-WORLD WAR II

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, Keyhoe personally test-flew a wide variety of aircraft and evaluated their performance and features for *True Magazine*. When the first "flying saucer" sightings were reported in June of 1947, Keyhoe, as an experienced aviator was skeptical. But when *True* asked him to investigate in 1949 and he interviewed numerous fliers as well as military officers in the Pentagon, he discovered that expert observers had seen the unexplained discs, many at close range.

The more he investigated, the more he became convinced that the UFOs were nothing from this planet, apparently coming from outer space. He concluded that the Air Force had to know this and were covering up the truth.

His article "Flying Saucers Are Real" in the January 1950 issue of *True* became one of the most widely read and discussed

articles in publishing history, and caused a sensation. The article was expanded into a paperback book *The Flying Saucers Are Real* (New York: Fawcett, 1950) and reached an even wider audience. This was followed by the major hardcover books *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* (1953), *Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (1955), and *Flying Saucers: Top Secret* (1960). In January 1957 Keyhoe had become Director of the newly formed National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) in Washington, D.C., which under his leadership gave serious publicity to the UFO mystery through the 1960s and encouraged Congressional hearings.

His last book *Aliens From Space* was published in 1973. By this time Keyhoe had become convinced that the Central Intelligence Agency was the principal agency behind the cover-up. He spent his later retirement years at "Bluemont" in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley outside of Luray, Virginia, with his wife Helen Gardner Keyhoe, a native of Page County, Virginia. Mrs. Keyhoe was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a prize-winning rose grower.

The Laughlin Conference 2004

I have just returned from Laughlin, and still a bit jet lagged but I thought you would like to know a quick summary of what my week was like.

I had a full agenda there.

- Entrant to the EBE film awards with *Expressions of ET Contact a communication and Healing Blueprint?*
- Facilitating 4 Experienter workshops for 4 evenings.
- Vacillating the 'experienter' sharing on the Thursday morning at the congress
- My own 90 minute presentation.

It took me 33 hours from my home to arrival in the Flamingo Hotel in Laughlin. So a long trek. I arrived a day early so that I could be up to speed for Sunday. Saturday prior to the congress opening I was invited to a small private gathering by Bob and Teri Brown to meet the volunteers and also Bob and Teri and

family, they were keen to hear personally re my work with Star Kids, as they are both very interested in this phenomenon. This was informal and really lovely start to the conference.

The conference began with registrations am and then into the swing by midday. I introduced my new 80 min documentary my film "Expressions of ET Contact a healing and communication blueprint?" in the afternoon. I was happy to say it was very well received. Throughout the film showing I sat next to Adrian DVir the computer scientist who was a participant in my film and who was also presenting at the conference, regarding his healing work in Israel in what he believes he works in Multidimensional hospitals with Extraterrestrials. I also met his lovely wife who is an architect.

I did have a stand to sell my book, *Awakening* and my new documentary film so was able to connect with many people that way. There were others close by and one was Michael Horn with his excellent research and his support of the re Billy Meir Case and also Leah Hayley whose Contact story is quite profound, her strength and resilience was remarkable. We really connected.

The 'experienter groups' numbered from 50-60 each night... with at least 4-5 therapists who worked in the field, Roberta Fennig DO (Psychiatrist/experienter) who works with Joe Lewels in EL Paso. DR Michael O'Connell who is a Harvard graduate, consultant psychologist who has worked with DR John Mack. Therapist Barbara Lamb of ACCET (Academy of Clinical Close Encounter Therapists) Psychotherapist Paul Hansen. This was very challenging given the numbers of experiencers and the different levels of awareness. Even the therapists who attended said they were relieved that they didn't have to facilitate such a large diverse group. So all I could do given the short time was to spend three evening to allow sharing and the final evening offer some therapeutic tools.

At this time I connected with an affiliated group to ACERN. A new organization I have set up in the UK called CONCERN (UK) and attending were three couples that are members of this new group at the conference. Ann Andrews author Abducted...with husband Paul; some may remember she visited Brisbane and Perth. Mike Oram and Fran Pickering (Northern coordinator of CONCERN UK) and Steven Jones and wife Ann a Holistic therapist/experiencer. Two of the couples had very unusual trips to Area 51 (that is another story)

As the group facilitator of the Experiencer sharing, part of my work was to find any experiencers who would like to share their story publicly on the Thursday morning. Only 5 were prepared to do this very personally confronting experience, one was Roberta Fennig the Psychiatrist, three of the CONCERN UK contingent i.e. Michael Oram, Steve Jones and Ann Andrews plus another lady who lives in the US. I gave them 15 minutes each and the stories were articulate and very moving. This session is normally never filmed in deference to the speakers. But afterwards Bob Brown (one of the organizers of the conference) came back stage and told me that he had numerous people come up to him afterwards and commented that it was the best experiencer session they had heard, and where did I get such quality speakers. I said of course they found me! They were disappointed that it was not video taped! Consequently now in future a new policy will be in place to videotape this session. Ann Andrews told her story about when she finally learnt Jason had been having Contact experiences and how guilty she had felt that she hadn't initially believed him. Mike Oram told how he sighted a 'craft' and his family would dismiss it but what was profound for him was that on one occasion his father saw it too and on his deathbed mentioned it. Steven Jones has been doing work with Budd Hopkins and told the story of how at 16 he was relocated to another house 3 miles away after a Contact experience. Roberta was courageous to own how her Contact has changed her life and therapeutic understanding. After this sharing I gave my 90-minute PowerPoint presentation not only on the factual Contact reality, indicators of Contact with the historical, anthropological, religious, medical scientific, psychological and UFOlogical

worldwide research, but also the spiritual and metaphysical references to the Star Children Genesis. This coupled with personal testimony from young children, and adults who explain their personal understanding of this phenomenon. I also explored the communication that seems to be occurring not only telepathically but also in many diverse ways through symbology, marks on the body, sound, language and art. To explore what this all means and where it could be leading us as a sentient race, connecting with others in the galaxy. I was very heartened to have this challenging hypotheses be so well received with several people afterwards who thanked me for the work I was doing.

The final two days for me were networking and media work. A TV half hour special with Ted Loman shown on satellite TV. Interview with Mexico Televisa with Gilda Estrada. And the largest UFO research Group in Japan a video interview with Toshie Nakagawa. She was very interested in my work with experiencers and said there was no such support in Japan and felt strongly this must be changed. She is now she hopes to translate my book Awakening into Japanese as she feels it will help so many people. I also did several radio interviews Rob Simone Resonance FM 104.4 Fm in London and Jerry Pippin US.

The final day was concluded with the Gala dinner and EBE awards and much to my delight as director of the documentary "Expressions of ET Contact a communication and healing Blueprint?" won the best music in a documentary award tribute to composer musician David Sandercock. Producer Bradley De Niese. This is a lovely award and well deserved as David has generously given enormous amounts of his time, energy and talent to this phenomenon and to raising awareness. To accept the award on his behalf was a real honor. Although due to the strict security of Los Angeles Airport I was in suspicion for a short time until they ascertained that the EBE statuette wasn't

a terrorist bomb... such is the paranoia in the US these days.

My final part of the trip was with DR. Richard Boylan and Marian MacNeil both members of the Star Kids Project, we held our first Annual General Meeting in of all places the Luxor Hotel (the pyramid), which seemed symbolic somehow. Then Richard kindly took myself, Marian, a young 'Star Kids' Cassie and another colleague and traveling companion of mine a counselor Baljeet Carroll on the long trek to Area 51 that evening. Yes we did the Little Ale'ien Inn and were greeted with warmth and friendliness. We had the photos taken behind the bar as well as outside. We certainly saw some unexplained lights going to and from Area 51, with the obvious "glow" over Groom Lake. We reached the 'signs that warned that extreme force will be used if you crossed over, and although we were miles from anywhere immediately we reached this sign on a dirt road two big headlight beams were pointed in our direction making it very obvious that we were seen and noted... it felt very intimidating.... after we took some photos the lights started to come down the hill towards us and some more took the place of the ones on the hill so at least two lots of security arrived there. It was exciting but as I said very intimidating.

After all the excitement I finally had a few days in Hawaii and met two UFOlogists Richard Dickinson and Paula and he took us to the Army airfield where we met with amateur star gazers of the Hawaiian Astronomical society and for the first time I really saw Saturn its rings and Venus, Jupiter and its moons marvelous stuff. Had they seen any UFO's, no one was telling... but they seemed open enough.

So to conclude it was a marvelous two weeks which has given me much to think on, but more than that the one thing that stood out is the wonderful committed and dedicated people that share and explore this amazing phenomenon and are prepared to stretch themselves and their paradigms constantly to seek the truth.

Mary Rodwell

www.maryrodwell.com

UFOLOGY, WHAT IS GOING ON?

I guess that before I go any further, I should just point out that the views expressed within this piece are those of my own and not those of the Southampton UFO Group, of which I am Secretary. I also wish to point out one piece of information that is of the highest importance? At not time within this piece do intend to upset any individual, and where at all possible I will refrain from using names. As I have said this is meant as a point of view and not an attack on anyone.

I am sure that now you have read the first paragraph you are wondering exactly what it is that I have to say? To be honest it can all be answered by the title UFOLOGY – WHAT IS GOING ON? However, I am referring to our area specifically.

GROUP NUMBERS AND SUPPORT

Around ten years ago when I first joined SUFOG, monthly meetings were, as they are now, held in Netley. However, what has changed in those years is that the numbers at those monthly meetings has changed dramatically, from a packed venue with 30+ people to a maximum attendance of only those who chose to attend; this includes a hard core of those most dedicated.

In one case one of our most dedicated group members just left the group with no explanation has not contacted anyone since, and not through want of trying?

Group support is something that is the most valuable thing for a group, especially one such as ours, to survive. However, it is one thing that has dropped along with the numbers. SUFOG has had to cancel many events both published and un-published because we do not have the group support to run these events in the proper manor.

MONEY

Over the years we have all seen our cost of living rise and know that we must pay more for things with each New Year! I feel that something is happening within our subject. The cost of putting on events is becoming more expensive; the cost of investigating and

research is growing and-so-on!

The cost of all this is that not all of us can afford to go to the events we would like to or do all the research we would like etc. However, the other real cost of all this is that the small, Local UFO Groups will struggle to survive unless they have the MONEY to constantly put into the research and promotion of the subject. It seems a sad fact that it is no longer enough to have an interest and a passion for the subject, even though that is still an important part of what we all need.

I still hear some among you who are not convinced? Let me give you some first-hand experiences of what I mean?

As the Secretary of SUFOG, I have seen the group change in the last couple of years? We have done some great things in that time including Local radio, local and national TV and many lectures, especially the one for Quest at Leeds in 2002. However, in that time we have constantly had to cancel events due, in part, to the overall cost of those events and the overall risk involved should the event fail, which is possible when the Group support and overall interest in the subject is so low.

UFO's-THE INTEREST

There have been many frustrating times in the last few years, as well as the highs that we have had. One of the most frustrating things that has arisen in this time is that we have increasingly seen many good UFO sightings in this area reported to the media or other UFO groups, both in this country and abroad, who have placed them in the public domain, but allowed the sightings to go un-researched? Something we could have done had we been given the report or been asked to look into a report for the source group? This is very frustrating as those at the core of SUFOG are very dedicated and have a deep passion for the subject as a whole and only wish to search for the truth, whatever it is and where ever it may lead?

As I have already mentioned in this article, the question of SUFOG events is a major aspect, especially those that have had to

have been cancelled. It has already been noted that support and cash have been major factors in the fate of all those events, but the most important factor is the interest from the public. This interest in the events SUFOG has arranged has varied somewhat from very good, when a well-known author is the main speaker, to very poor, even though we have arranged for an international speaker to speak. It has always been the interest in SUFOG events that has been the deciding factor when we have decided whether or not to go ahead with an event or not.

I understand that everyone has their own commitments these days and with everything that is happening in the world around us and in our own communities and lives we may not always have the time for this subject?

This is so true!

It is also such a great pity as the subject is loosing so many good supporters?

SO WHAT NOW?

Sometimes it is so hard to know which way to go or which direction to take?

Time passes so quickly and in the past year or so things have changed drastically?

SUFOG has seen numbers dwindle and events cancelled.

We have also seen the loss of a good friend and one of the greatest supporters of UFOlogy, Graham W. Birdsall, Who was taken so prematurely last September. He was a great loss and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Just recently we have seen the closure of the magazine that Graham edited, UFO Magazine. We need not question the whys and wherefores of this decision. All that matters is that it is great loss to UFOlogy and will be missed from the shelves of the newsagents, as will the Leeds conferences, that entertained so many and at which SUFOG was so proudly represented at what is now the last Leeds conference in 2002. UFO Magazine did so much for UFOlogy in this country and the world, lets hope that it's

legacy lives on for many years to come.

BBC Radio Solent
23rd March 2004.

So what now for UFOlogy in this country and SUFOG?

I am sure that the loss of UFO Magazine will not be the death knell for UK UFOlogy. I am sure that the UK UFO Groups will continue to provide the UFO community with some superb cases and excellent and dedicated researchers.

As for SUFOG, we will continue to support the subject that we love and even branch off in to some other areas. I hope that some of those who have hole in their UFO lives, now that UFO Magazine has gone, may turn to SUFOG to see what we have to offer. Whatever happens SUFOG and UFOlogy still has much to offer and will continue to do so.

In September SUFOG will hold an afternoon event to allow people to come and meet the group and listen and see what we have to offer. I hope that it will be the start of more events and perhaps a rise in members and much more!

What I will say in closing is this? Think about what it is about this subject that you enjoy? What made you interested in it? What it is that still holds your attention and interest and what you want from this subject now?

When you have thought of this and have your answers, if you find that the subject is of great interest to you still? Ask yourself one question!

What can I do now?

UFOlogy and SUFOG needs people like you to carry on research for the truth. If you feel you can help, get involved. If everyone works together we can help to make this subject something to be respected. Just because the media spotlight is not on the subject at the moment, does not mean that there is nothing there? Take a look? There is much more to it that meets the eye.

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2004

Following an earlier phone call I was on the radio around 7.15 p.m. talking about the recent opinion pole. According to the pole, 48% of those asked said that Ossie Osbourne should be our ambassador to meet the aliens when they land. I was asked to comment on this item that appeared in the papers. Well, most people think we are 'Strange' so why not have Ossie !!! It was a short (3 minute or so) and the group was well and truly publicised.

BBC Radio Solent :
Curious Questions Answered :
7th April 2004.

I had one of those last minute phone calls from the local radio to appear on the program that evening in a few hours time. So, I sat by the computer, awaiting the questions to arrive, for the interview at 8.15 p.m. rapidly approached and I found that it was time to go on the radio. So, I had to think somewhat quick on my feet for the following questions :

- Earliest sightings of UFO's?! A lady has heard that the Anglo Saxon chronicle - 7th century sighted glowing objects coming down...
- Were UFO's seen prior to the 20th Century?
- Where does the phrase UFO come from?
- How fast do they go?
- Is there, anywhere in the world, something that is claimed to be a UFO?

So, another program to add to the SUFOG hall of fame....

(Steve Gerrard)